

Serial No.: 10/712,729  
Reply to Office action of December 29, 2005

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Shan ME Chen  
Signature**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of:

David Charles Pender et al

Group Art Unit: 1731

Serial No.: 10/712,729

Examiner: Q.S. Dehghan

Filed: November 12, 2003

Conf. No.: 9280

**TITLED:      SYSTEM AND SUPPORT ROD ASSEMBLY FOR SINTERING FIBER  
                 OPTIC SLEEVE TUBES**

**REPLY TO OFFICE ACTION**

(In compliance with 37 CFR § 1.111)

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed on December 29, 2005, please consider the following amendments and remarks.

**Amendment to the specification** begins on page 2 of this reply.

**Listing of the Claims** begins on page 3 of this reply.

**Remarks** begin on page 7 of this reply.